

ToughTimes

EMAIL | TOUGHTIMESTABLOID@GMAIL.COM

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Here's looking at you!

It's Knights Table's Masquerade Ball, where 500 folk dressed up in masks and more to chatter and dance the night away, all in aid of feeding the hungry in Peel. Aim: to raise \$100,000 at the Masquerade alone. But note the headline below.

(Tough Times photo by Michelle Bilek)



Knights Table has a million-dollar friend!

Businessman Dan Mishra is putting up starter cash to build a headquarters for Knights Table in Brampton, where the charity can feed the hungry and provide many more services for people in need – **see the Masquerade Section, pages five to eight.**

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PEEL POVERTY ACTION GROUP

Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG) is open to every individual and organization in Peel Region that cares about what poverty does to people. It provides a safe place where people who are cash-poor and those who try to help them are encouraged to speak out – and *Tough Times* is part of that safe place. The Group's mandate is to advocate for people in need and to educate the public about poverty issues. Membership is free. PPAG meets at 9:30 a.m., usually the second Thursday of every month (except July and August) alternately in Mississauga at the Newcomer Centre of Peel, 165 Dundas St. W., at Confederation Parkway; in Brampton at Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA), 9 Wellington Street East.

Meetings for 2018:

Next meeting is Thursday,
September 13, 2018, at PAMA in
Brampton.

www.ppag.wordpress.com

Homeless: The Video

Spaces and Places: Uncovering Homelessness in the Region of Peel is a 15-minute video in which homeless people describe their experiences. A team from PPAG, including a once-homeless person, will show the video to a group on request. There is no charge. To book a showing contact ppagactiongroup@gmail.com. Allow about 45 minutes for the video and discussion.

The video was made by a team from York University, in cooperation with the Social Planning Council of Peel, financed by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

You can buy *Spaces and Places* on a memory stick for \$50. Email ppagactiongroup@gmail.com or phone 905 826-5041.

Doctored drugs

Peel Regional Police report that some illicit drugs which may contain lethal amounts of fentanyl and/or carfentanyl combined with cocaine and heroin, are being sold to unsuspecting customers.

If you have information, phone police at 905 453-2121, ext. 3515 or Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.



Just sleeping...

Here's an opossum feigning death in a green bin.

Not a rarity, reports Mississauga's animal shelter. Opossums have been with us for years. They seek out green bins which are receptacles for food waste, their favourite diet. Though there are lots of opossums here in Peel, you don't see them wandering around with their babies, because opossums carry their little ones in pouches, the way kangaroos do. They also move around at night and have opposable thumbs. Who knew? (*Tough Times* photo)

ToughTimes

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Volunteer writers, reporters, artists,
cartoonists, photographers, are
welcome at *Tough Times*.

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toughtimestabloid@gmail.com

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Tough Times distributes 10,000 copies, throughout Peel Region.

Target audience is people experiencing homelessness, using food banks and soup kitchens, people who are struggling, plus faith groups, social service agencies, trades unions, business people, and the general public.

To advertise in Tough Times:

toughtimestabloid@gmail.com

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Advertising rates: (colour included)

Business card: \$90

1/16 page: \$100

1/8 page: \$155

1/4 page: \$240

1/2 page: \$430

3/4 page: \$600

Full page: \$755

A full page is approximately 10 inches wide by 12 inches deep = 120 square inches. E&OE

BY EDNA TOTH

Many Peel organizations exist to help the poor.

They feed the hungry, teach people how to get jobs, help them care for their children, settle in a new country, or learn a new language, and undertake many other tasks for people who can't pay for these services.

These organizations are charities, devoting their income to helping people in need.

How do they get money?

They appeal for funds from the public. And they apply for grants – asking organizations like the Region of Peel, United Way, the Maytree Foundation, The Trillium Foundation, and many more, for cash.

These funders don't just hand over money. They

What's wrong with charity?

want to know exactly what it will be spent on, how it will benefit the community and the individuals on the receiving end of service, how efficiency will be measured, and just how important are the services provided.

Applying for grants is a skilled job.

You need to prove the need for a particular service, and detail how it will be provided. You need job descriptions and statistics, estimated costs of accommo-

dation and staffing, and more.

You also need to study the way funders want the information provided.

And according to staff who write the applications, every funder wants it slightly differently.

The result: Charities must keep records in various ways to answer the questions to keep the money flowing. They invest much time in applications. Yet their training is in helping *people*, not juggling numbers.

What's needed is a one-form-fits-all application process, where funding organizations agree to accept similar information in similar format from all applicants.

A committee is working on it.

Don't hold your breath.

Edna Toth is the editor of Tough Times

Building the just society – with left-overs

BY PAULA DECOITO

The movie is called *Mayachar*. Its opening scene is set in a fine restaurant. Well-dressed, plump-looking people are seated at white marble tables, eating fine foods on blue plates trimmed with gold. Crystal goblets filled with wine stand to attention at the side of their plately neighbours.

Knives, forks and spoons sparkle like diamonds, ready for the consumptive task at hand. In the centre of each table is a long, slender vase holding a red rose, resting against a single green fern and a spray of tiny white buds.

The camera moves the audience's attention towards the far side of the restaurant, near the kitchen revealing a group of people – women, men, children, the old, others with disabled limbs and minds. Their backs are to the wall. Some are sitting on the floor; others are lying down; a few can barely stand up. Their ragged clothes and worn-out shoes silently scream their tales of woe. Yellow teeth. No teeth. Quiet moaning. Eyes glistening with tears revealing hearts still hopeful for life.

The camera shifts to the diners. They have finished eating. They rise from their chairs, straighten their clothes, and stride out of the restaurant – heads high, smiles on their lips. As they leave, the manager of the restaurant calls to a team of waiters seated around

a table close to the kitchen door. They stand to attention. Buckets and long spoons are in their hands. Quickly, and with a fine precision that only comes from regular practice, they spread themselves out, approach different tables, and carefully scrape all of the left-over food into their buckets. Some buckets are full; some half-full. Carefully holding their now heavy buckets and spoons, the diligent waiters distribute the left-overs to those huddled against the wall. Soon after, more diners arrive. The audience knows that the scene will be repeated.

The restaurant is Canadian society. The manager is the government. The diners are individuals and business corporations. The food is money. The team of waiters is the charitable sector. The people lying on the floor are the clients of the charitable sector: human beings who cannot pay for the services they need to rebuild their lives, human beings who are old, sick, poor, homeless, mentally ill, addicted to drugs and alcohol, physically and sexually abused.

We say we value the poor, the homeless, those suffering from substance abuse, women who are victims of physical and sexual abuse, the elderly. Yet, when it comes to providing funds for community-based services for these human beings, – services provided at the local level, in the neighbourhoods where they live

– we are reluctant to use adequate funds from our tax coffers to provide the necessary services.

Instead, we beg individuals and corporations to give some of their left-over, discretionary money to fund those services. Then we give that money to others to provide remedial services to the oppressed, the dispossessed, the disenfranchised.

We have a name for this: Charity. We have a sector for this: the charitable sector, the non-profit charitable sector.

When lives are at stake, when people are unable to provide for themselves because they live in a society where poverty and oppression are necessary by-products of the economic system – a system rooted in racism, sexism and colonialism – we cannot rely on the “charity” of individuals and for-profit, non-charitable businesses to give us what they feel like giving us to rectify the situation – to save lives and build the just society.

We must have a constant and reliable source of funding to help the poor and oppressed in our society until we are spiritually mature enough to create a truly just society. That source is tax revenues

Paula DeCoito has spent a working lifetime in social services. At retirement, she was executive director of the Social Planning Council of Peel.

NEED FOOD?

غذا درکار ہے؟
 ਭੋਜਨ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰਤ؟
 需要食物吗？
 Cần thực phẩm?
 هل تحتاج إلى الطعام؟
 ¿Necesita comida?



Don't Go Hungry

If you don't have enough money for food and live in Mississauga, you can go to a neighbourhood food bank.

It doesn't matter about your age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, or immigration status. You will receive enough healthy food to feed your family for 7-10 days each month. There is no cost to visit a food bank.

Find your food bank at
www.themississaugafoodbank.org
 or phone 905.270.5589.



Fresh food, just inches from your table

ToughTomes

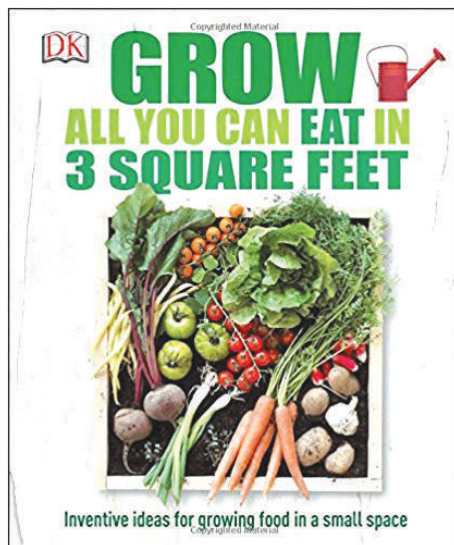
BY LAURA BILYEA, Librarian
Central Library, Mississauga

Summer is the season of growing: towering trees, lush plants, colourful flowers, fat vegetables. An inexpensive way to enjoy these fruits of summer close up is to plant your own. Seeds and small plants are readily available at most grocery stores. Do you think you have no space? Think again—maybe you do. Visit your local library and check out these books on small space gardening, container gardening and even growing up (well, vertically).



Vertical Gardens by Leigh Clapp

Vertical gardening is a fun, creative way to grow plants in urban spaces. As long as you've got a blank wall or bare fence that needs beautifying, you can tend edibles, annuals, even perennials with



vertical garden products. A vertical garden is perfect for balcony gardens, rooftops, outdoor BBQ or dining areas, and courtyards. Chapters include projects perfect for high rise residential buildings, rooftop gardens, veggie and herb gardens and privacy screens.

Grow all you can eat in 3 square feet by Kate Johnsen

(635. 986 GRO) 2015

Want to grow your own vegetables and food, but don't have enough space for a garden?

Find your start in this book which is packed with information on window boxes, potted plants, patio gardening, raised beds, small square-foot gardening, container gardening, and everything related to growing your own small garden.

Small space garden ideas by Philippa Pearson

(635 PEA) 2014

This book is full of creative ideas for making use of every growing space available. From windowsills and hanging



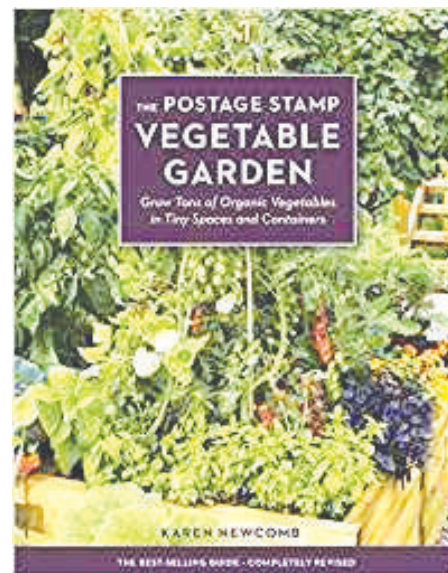
baskets to rooftop containers and vertical gardens, this book shows you how to create a dream garden, through step-by-step projects from start to finish.

Fresh herbs, succulent tomatoes, sweet berries, tender green beans, and crisp lettuce—can't you just taste them? Maybe you can add a few flowers to brighten up the space, too?

The postage stamp vegetable garden: grow tons of organic vegetables in tiny spaces and containers by Karen Newcomb

(635 NEW) 2015

To accommodate today's lifestyles, a



garden needs to fit easily into a very small plot, take as little time as possible to maintain, require a minimum amount of water, and still produce prolifically. That's exactly what a postage stamp garden does. Postage stamp gardens are as little as 4 by 4 feet, and, after the initial soil preparation, they require very little extra work to produce a tremendous amount of vegetables—for instance, a five-by-five-foot bed will produce a minimum of 200 pounds of vegetables.

Have a delicious summer and see you at the library!



Hepatitis C Treatment, Care & Support Is Available

You can be at risk if:

- Sharing of personal care and hygiene items such as razors, toothbrushes, clippers and scissors with someone living with hepatitis C
- Sharing needles used for body tattoos and piercings. Reusing and sharing tattoo ink and ink pots
- Sharing drug equipment such as needles, filters, tourniquets, water, syringes, cookers, alcohol swabs, acidifiers
- Receive blood and body organs that have not been screened for hepatitis C. Even in Canada, if you received blood and organ donations before 1990 you may be at risk.
- Involved in medical procedures including immunization in hepatitis C endemic countries



Bloom Clinic

Contact:

Bloom Clinic
40 Finchgate Blvd. Suite 224, Brampton, ON L6T 3J1
Phone: 905-451-6959 | mail@bramaleachc.ca



*Call today for information or
to book a free test.*

Masquerade Ball

Thanks a million, Dan Mishra



Dan Mishra, CEO of Canadian Systems International.

Dan Mishra is putting up a million dollars so that Knights Table can own a headquarters in Brampton. And he's challenging other individuals and organizations to match or exceed his generosity.

He says: "My contribution of \$1 million is to be used as "seed capital".

"I hope some more people will feel inspired and come forward as well and help to leverage my donation into something substantially larger, to help the organization create greater community impact."

If you have money and want an investment that pays off in essential social services in the community, Dan's your man. Reach him through Knights Table (905) 454-8725

Here is Dan Mishra's story, as he tells it:

Dan came to Canada from India

nearly 50 years ago with only \$6 in his pocket, but survived on scholarships from the University of New Brunswick.

After two years of post-graduate studies, he became a computer programmer at Sears, built his career from there, leading to the post of Assistant Director of IT at Bell Canada.

Then Bell was deregulated and Dan was laid off.

Starting his own business, he developed "a software platform which would help build complex business automation solutions with minimal programming". This platform, AMANDA, thrived in North America, the Caribbean, and parts of Europe. Dan sold it to an American company.

With money in his pocket, Dan moved on from helping business to helping developing countries create "a smart and seamless governance".

Just so you know, Dan Mishra gave \$5 million to the Royal Ontario Museum, to boost its South Asian collection.

More money on the African frontier

CASH GOES WHERE HELP IS NEEDED

Dan Mishra, who has given a million dollars to Knights Table, seems to put money where help is needed.

While Knights Table and the people who eat and learn there will benefit from owning a headquarters in Brampton (that's the purpose of the million), people in other countries and in even greater need also get help from

Mishra's activities.

Mishra tells his own story:

"Developing countries lacked sufficient revenue due to widespread avoidance. They needed deploy technology to provide seamless governance."

Mishra says he gave many African countries use of his software and associated hardware services free of charge; the system was sustained by using a small

part of the additional revenue generated.

"This free service became immensely popular in Nigeria (pop. 186m) and Senegal (pop. 15m), in some cases generating four times more revenue for governments within one year. Governments use this extra revenue to provide new infrastructure, health and education."

Mishra has set up an investment

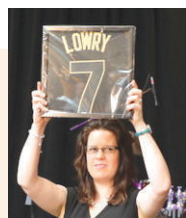
bank in Dubai to find foreign investments for African countries to develop their infrastructure faster, where the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would not help.

Mishra says he has dedicated most of his wealth to charitable institutions. He says he loves Canada immensely, as it has given him opportunities to create this wealth.

Want to be one of Knights Table's builders?
BUY A BRICK FOR THE WALL OF FAME, SEE PAGE 8.



Auctions are part of the fundraising functions of Knights Table's annual gala. At least two TVs plus masses of other goodies were snapped up by eager bidders.



Don Reinhart is the resident auctioneer on TV's Storage Wars Canada, using his talent to raise money at the Knights Table gala.



Right: Jennifer Valentyne, TV celebrity on The Bachelor and the Bachelorette Canada After Show, and co-host of Q107, was master of ceremonies at the MasqueradeBall, and congratulates Lea Lavelli Clediere, winner of the Best Mask entry.



Councillors in attendance at the Masquerade Gala include (from left) Jeff Bowman, Pat Fortini, and Martin Medeiros.



Elysium Entertainment presented a new style of dinner theatre at the Masquerade. The cast dropped by at various tables as guests prepared for their meal, and told them the "facts" of a whodunit, providing every necessary clue, then after dinner, invited these amateur detectives to name the guilty person. Some got it right.



GOT GROOVE is a high energy dance band that concentrates on hits and on keeping an audience dancing, hopping, jigging, and on its feet.



So who is under arrest here? Is it the cops or the tough guy?



Mayor Linda Jeffrey and Deputy Chief Ingrid Berkeley-Brown of Peel Police accept community plaque for Peel Police Services Board, a gala sponsor.



Mayor Linda visits with guests from KJS Transport, a supporter of Knights Table.

It's a MASK-ERADE!

More photos on page 8



Fun for all at the Masquerade.



Jennifer Valentyne congratulates Lea Lavelli Clediere, who took the prize for the Best Mask entry.



Need a mask?
Rentals made
easy



Best Masks contestants!
Good work by all



Here's a close-up of the Best Mask.



It's a MASK-ERADE!



Jennifer Valentyne dons a mask for Knights Table's fundraising gala.

It's among the many volunteer roles she undertakes, along with the Children's Breakfast Club, Dreams Take Flight, Habitat for Humanity, Women Build, Pride Build, and World Vision.



Everybody is into fundraising at the Gala, raffles being a certain help.



Knights Table gala sponsors receive community plaques for their gala sponsorship: Left to right: New Directions Aromatics; Loomis Express; and Sotawall Limited.



Rick Gavin, past president of Knights Table directors and currently Secretary of the Board, introduced Master of Ceremonies Jennifer Valentyne, and thanked Dan Mishra for his generosity.



Knights Table president Rob Tremblay welcomes guests to its sixth annual Gala and fundraiser.

BUY A BRICK FOR A WALL OF FAME

Everyone is invited to help build a new headquarters for Knights Table's community kitchen and other services that help Brampton's homeless and hungry.

You can buy a brick for \$125 and have your name on Knights Table's Wall of Fame in a new building.

The cash is a charitable donation so you get a tax receipt.

To find out more about Buy a Brick:
Phone (905) 454-8725
Email administrator@knightstable.org
Write or visit
287 Glidden Road Unit 4
Brampton ON L6W 1H9
Check Knights Table's website at
www.knightstable.org

Young Black Women's Project LEARNING TO LEAD



Cover of the Young Black Women's book

Less than a year ago, young Black women from all across Peel took part in the Young Black Women's Project – learning leadership while exploring issues affecting health and happiness.

They attended workshops dealing with racism, mental health, sex and relationships, body and self-image, all involving leadership. They learned public speaking, how to get ideas across using story-boards, how to create and use art, how to write imaginatively. And they exchanged opinions about matters not often discussed.

Organizers of the Project – Peel HIV/AIDS Network – agree that the Project has produced “a cohort of

highly-engaged young, Black, women leaders, equipped to navigate adverse circumstances, and to coach others.”

Many of them now volunteer in their communities, and are members of the Project's Advisory Committee, ensuring that the Project continues so that more Young Black Women learn these skills.

Peel HIV/AIDS started the Project following community forums, where young women from Brampton and Caledon cited lack of safe spaces to explore issues such as race, relationships and inclusion.

With safe spaces provided and skills developed, this first group of young

women set up a website – click to <https://www.ybnproject.com> -- and assembled a 70-page book *Journal of a Young Black Woman*, now on sale at \$21.95. Go to *Amazon.ca* or phone Peel HIV/AIDS Network at 905-361-0523 or toll free at 1-866-896-8700 to find out more.

What's happening now

The Project Advisory Committee coordinates community outreach and monthly meet-ups. Plus a fundraising barbeque for Sunday, August 12, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Chinguacousy Park, Brampton, by the splash pad. Money raised goes to continue the Young Black Woman Project.

MORE HUSTLE ON THE HUSTINGS MUNICIPAL ELECTION OCTOBER 22

Peel residents elect a Regional Chair for the first time this year.

Until now, the Chair has been selected by councillors elected by Peel voters.

On Monday, October 22 this year, every voter helps to choose the Region's leader.

The money for Chair is good. Frank Dale, Peel's Regional Chair for four years and who has said he won't seek re-election, was paid \$193,573.37 in 2017.

Among those registered to seek the Chair's job: Patrick Brown, former leader of Ontario's Progressive Conservative Party, now a resident of Lorne Park in Mississauga; also registered as candidates as Tough Times went to press: Mississauga councillor Ron

Starr; Brampton residents Masood Khan; Amir S. Ali; Ken Looy; Vidya Sagar Gautam; Marcin Huniewicz.

Candidates for Chair are permitted to spend up to \$7,500 plus 85 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office. And they must pay \$200 to register to run.

Other jobs are open, too. Mayors of Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon also pay \$200 to register and run.

Mississauga's Bonnie Crombie, (salary from Mississauga \$139,374.04 in 2017) registered to run for her current job on May 1 this year, the day registrations opened.

Also registered as *Tough Times* went to press: Kevin

J. Johnston and Scott E. W. Chapman. All provided an email address and more.

In Brampton, Mayor Linda Jeffrey has registered to run, as has Wesley Jackson, and Omar Mansoury. None of them listed an email address, and only Mansoury left a phone number.

The Town of Caledon's candidates for mayor are incumbent Allan Thompson, Barb Shaughnessy, and Kelly Darnley. Everybody filed a phone number, and only Darnley left no email address.

Every candidate for a council or school board in Peel is invited to write 120 words on poverty in Peel and what can be done about it, for publication in Tough Times. Deadline is August 1, 2018. Email to toughtimestabloid@gmail.com

**A proud Canadian Union representing
workers and promoting community
spirit is a commitment we take seriously.**



NORTH PEEL & DUFFERIN Community Legal Services

- Free legal services for low income residents of Brampton, Caledon and Dufferin County
- Problems with your landlord?
- Is your rent subsidy threatened?
- Was your application for Ontario Disability Support Program benefits denied?
- Problems with Ontario Works?

905-455-0160 Toll Free from Dufferin 1-866-455-0160 npdinfo@lao.on.ca

Human Rights are Women's Rights

SEX EXPLOITATION IN PEEL

BY MONICA RIUTORT

Human trafficking is defined as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by improper means (such as force, abduction, fraud, coercion, deception, repeated provision of a controlled substance) for an illegal purpose, including sexual exploitation or forced labour.” It is estimated that 20.9 million people are affected worldwide.

The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1979 found that trafficking reduced the human rights of women, especially moving victims across borders from poor nations to affluent nations.

Studies by the Peel Institute on Violence Prevention (PIVP) on trafficking for the purposes of sex work show that trafficking in Canada is different. Recent interviews with survivors at the PIVP revealed that the most common victim of trafficking in Peel is a white girl, ages between 14-18, who is at school and led into trafficking by a boyfriend who is slightly older or the same age.

The convincing benefits of being involved in sex work include young girls being able to buy items that are categorized as high class or luxurious. But these girls are forced to isolate themselves from their families and community.

Peel Police say that over half of the human trafficking cases in Canada have occurred in Peel.

Decreasing the numbers of girls who become involved in sex work requires understanding the societal and power structures that influence their lives.

A Survivor Story

Vanessa, 18, was a typical high school student in Mississauga. Her life took a drastic turn two years ago, when she fell in with a new boyfriend who had enrolled in her school: “Right from the beginning, he

The long-term effects of human trafficking result in numerous physical, emotional and mental health needs for survivors.

knew ... I was the one that was, I guess vulnerable,” said Vanessa. “He always kind of told me what to do, and I would do it. I’m very kind of submissive.” One day, a car showed up with two men in it who Vanessa didn’t know. Her boyfriend asked her to get in, and she did. “I was still in my school uniform,” she said. As they drove to a motel in Mississauga, one of the men told her she could make a lot of money doing sex work. Vanessa said she was unsure and scared but felt pressured to go along with it, because the two men were friends of the boy she knew. “At that time, I didn’t try to understand what was going on,” she said. “My friend promised me all these things that I felt that I needed — a stable place, money in my hands. It was kind of part of me wanting to do it and see if I could get something better, and then a bigger part was that I was already there, and I couldn’t really say no anymore.”

Human Trafficking Statistics

Peel Institute on Violence Prevention (PIVP) is conducting an extensive study for the project: “A Survivor-Centred Approach to Build Capacity to Address Human Trafficking in Peel” funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The target population are women and girls exploited by the sex trade.

Ontario’s Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services reports that “Ontario is a major centre for human trafficking in Canada, accounting for roughly 65% of police-reported cases nationally.” And “Of Ontario’s reported cases of human trafficking, about 70 per cent are for the purposes of sexual



exploitation. The majority of survivors are Canadian citizens or permanent residents”.

Statistics Canada, reports on trafficking across Canada between 2009 and 2014, “there were 396 victims of police-reported human trafficking. Of these, 93% were women.” About 25% were under 18; and 46.95% of them were between 18 and 25, while 70% were under 25 years, which reflects how young girls have been targeted by traffickers, the majority of whom (83%) are men. Various police reports show that “Persons accused of human trafficking were most commonly between the ages of 18 to 24 (41%) and 25 to 34 (36%)”. Victims who are trafficked by individuals under the age of 18 years are usually under 18 years old themselves.”

Needs of Human Trafficking Survivors

The long-term effects of human trafficking result in numerous physical, emotional and mental health needs for survivors. The needs of victims are varied and can range from emotional and moral support, legal and medical support, child care, employment support, housing, clothing and food.

Survivors require immediate and ongoing emotional and psychological support not only to address their most recent/current situation but their historical situation as well. Many survivors have experienced extreme levels of sexual and physical abuse/violence prior to being trafficked.

Many physical issues affect trafficking survivors, such as headaches, stomach aches, difficulty in breathing, hair falling out, frequent colds, low blood pressure, sexually transmitted diseases, frequent urinary tract infections, and issues with incontinence and bowel control.

Some of the survivors reported head injuries resulting in confusion, mental slowing and other cognitive difficulties. There is an urgent need for these victims to seek medical attention to help them deal with their physical issues, in addition to coping with their emotional health.

Monica Riutort B.Sc., B.A., M.A. is manager of the Peel Institute on Violence Prevention — Family Services of Peel

This article originally appeared in the newsletter of the Peel Institute. It has been edited here for length. To see the full version, including sources, go to the original newsletter.

**Know your rights
@ work**

**Workshops every month
Phone 905-699-7444**

Labour Community Services of Peel



What the police say

Human trafficking is the illegal recruitment, transportation or hiding of someone for the purpose of exploiting them. Human trafficking includes labour and prostitution. Canadian young people ages 13 to 21 can become victims of trafficking.

Traffickers are men or women, often known as pimps or madams.

Traffickers control victims by violence, intimidation or threats to the person's safety or the safety of family members.

Traffickers build a relationship with a young person by pretending to be their friend, boyfriend or girlfriend. They build trust by showering them with compliments, buying them expensive items and telling him/her that they love them. People can be approached and not even realize it. It can happen at the mall, shopping centres, clubs, bars, etc.

Possible warning signs for victim, family, friends:

Isolation from family and friends; more than one cell phone; always being monitored or controlled by



someone else; protective of the new boyfriend or girlfriend; always being moved, usually from hotel to hotel; carrying condoms or sexual aids; drug use; the person does not carry any form of identification; visible signs of scarring/tattoos.

But note that these are possible signs, not necessarily confirming that the person is involved in prostitution or forced labour.

Tips for parents and guardians

Stay informed about your child's social and school life; talk to your child about inappropriate requests from people they do not know; get to know the people or friends involved with your child, not just their nicknames; monitor their social

media accounts and set rules for online activity; stay current with apps and social sites your child is using; educate your child on healthy social and romantic relationships and how to identify abusive ones.

Are you a target?

Traffickers use, abuse and control their victims. The key is to spot warning signs and seek help before it starts. Victims often have a fear of police, especially if they aren't Canadian citizens. Victims can trust the police and seek their help.

You may become or already are a victim of human trafficking if you answer yes to any of these questions: Is anyone controlling your freedom of movement? Is someone denying you

WARNING SIGNS:

- Isolation from family and friends
- Always being monitored
- Protective of new friend
- Being moved • No Identification

access to your passport or travel documents? Is anyone telling you to perform sex acts? Is anyone forcing you to work for no or very little money? Are you forced to work long hours without proper breaks?

The way out

An anonymous comment: Police may not be helping girls to escape from human trafficking. Police count success in making arrests and sending exploiters to jail. But women don't want to testify. They just want out.

If you or someone you know answers "yes" to any items under "Are you a target?" contact the police via the non-emergency phone line at **905 453-3311** or phone Peel Crime Stoppers at **(905) 455-8477**
In an emergency, phone **9-1-1**



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The Region of Peel wants to hear from **YOU!**

- Are you the parent or caregiver of a child from birth to 12 years old?
- Are you pregnant or expecting a child?
- Do you live in, or use child care in Brampton, Caledon or Mississauga?

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